

## Conflict Resolution

### Case Study

As the tribes of Gad, Reuben, and half of Manasseh returned to the eastern side of the Jordan River, a sobering thought occurred to them. What if future generations rejected the eastern tribes because of their geographical location? What if their descendants weren't allowed to worship with their brethren, simply because they lived east of Jordan? Thus, they

built a large, imposing altar as a reminder to both sides of their unity in the Lord. Unfortunately, their purpose wasn't well communicated, and the western tribes feared that the altar had been set up as a place of worship. If so, it would have been a direct violation of the Law (Deut. 12:1-14). The western tribes gathered, ready to go to war with the eastern tribes, but first they sent leaders to plead with them. The delegation questioned the altar, reminded the eastern tribes of God's power to punish evil, and then offered to give some of their own land to the eastern tribes if they needed to move west of the Jordan River. The eastern tribes then explained the purpose of the altar. It was not a place of worship, merely an altar of witness to remind future generations of their unity. When they heard this, the leaders of the western tribes were pleased, and civil war was avoided. This story teaches great lessons about resolving issues and confronting sin:

1. Before action, speak with a person who you perceived has done wrong
2. Be prepared to listen
3. Be willing to do whatever is Scripturally acceptable to help resolve the problem
4. Base everything on God's Word
5. Never compromise the truth!

### Questions

1. What city was given to Caleb as an inheritance? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who were the inhabitants of Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which tribe had their inheritance with the tribe of Judah? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What city was given to Joshua for his inheritance? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What were the six cities of Refuge?  
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6. What was the name of the priest who was sent to the eastern tribes to speak with them about the altar that had been set up? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How old was Joshua when he died? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where were the bones of Joseph buried? \_\_\_\_\_  
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# "That You May Grow Thereby..."

*A weekly Bible reading plan*



## Joshua 13-24

### Inheriting the Promised Land

#### Overview

The first half of the book of Joshua describes how Israel conquered the land of Canaan. While the events are covered in just a few chapters, it took somewhere between five and seven years. Having completed the majority of the conquest, Joshua received instruction from God that it was time to divide the land between the tribes for their inheritance. It had been centuries since God first promised Canaan to Abraham's descendants, and now the nation was finally ready to inherit the Promised Land. Joshua chapters 13 through 19 detail the land allotment given to each of the tribes, and also includes special allotments for Joshua and Caleb—the two faithful spies. Chapters 20 and 21 tell about the cities of refuge and the cities of the Levites. With the Promised Land seemingly conquered and the land divided, the two and one half tribes wishing to settle east of the Jordan River returned to their land. This set the stage for a misunderstanding that nearly caused a civil war, but was avoided by strong leadership. Finally, Joshua delivered his final words to the nation, recorded in the final chapters of the book that bears his name.

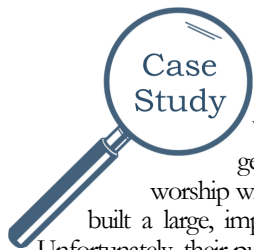
#### Suggested Reading Schedule

- Monday: Joshua 13-14
- Tuesday: Joshua 15-16
- Wednesday: Joshua 17-18
- Thursday: Joshua 19-21
- Friday: Joshua 22-24

### Final Words

In Joshua's final sermon to the nation, we find one of the greatest calls to obedience, and one of the greatest statements of faith. In Joshua 24:15 the great leader says, "...choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua had taught the people in both word and example, but it was ultimately their choice to obey God. For his part, Joshua would make sure he always stayed true to God, and he would do everything in his power to make sure his household did likewise. Joshua is truly a remarkable example of leadership!





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